

Magistrate Judge Paula L. McCandlis

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON  
AT SEATTLE

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,  
Plaintiff

v.

CRISTOBAL MORALES-ORTIZ,  
Defendant.

CASE NO. MJ25-205

COMPLAINT for VIOLATION

Title 8, U.S.C., Section 1326(a)

BEFORE, United States Magistrate Judge PAULA L. McCANDLIS, U.S.  
Courthouse, Seattle, Washington.

The undersigned complainant being duly sworn states:

**COUNT ONE**

**(Reentry of Removed Alien)**

On April 2, 2025, in Whatcom County, within the Western District of Washington,  
CRISTOBAL MORALES-ORTIZ, an alien, a native and citizen of Mexico, was found in  
the United States after having been removed therefrom, and after knowingly and  
voluntarily reentering the United States without having obtained the express consent of  
the Attorney General and the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security to  
reapply for admission to the United States.

1 All in violation of Title 8, United States Code, Section 1326(a).

2 And the complainant states that this Complaint is based on the following  
3 information:

4 I, Special Agent Jordan Dolan, being first duly sworn on oath, depose and say:

5 **INTRODUCTION**

6 1. I am a Special Agent with Homeland Security Investigations (HSI). As a  
7 Special Agent, I am empowered by law to investigate and to make arrests for offenses  
8 enumerated in Title 8 of the United States Code. I have been a Special Agent with HSI  
9 since February 21, 2016. I was trained to conduct investigations relating to violations of  
10 federal law through attending the Criminal Investigator Training Program and the  
11 Homeland Security Investigations Special Agent Training Program at the Federal Law  
12 Enforcement Training Centers (FLETC) in Glynco, Georgia. While at FLETC, I  
13 received nearly 1000 hours of training in such areas including, but not limited to  
14 criminal law, human smuggling/trafficking investigations, and criminal procedures. I  
15 was trained to conduct investigations relating to violations of Title 8 of the United States  
16 Code.

17 2. Prior to being a Special Agent with HSI, I was employed as a Border Patrol  
18 Agent (BPA) with the United States Border Patrol (USBP), from September 1999 to May  
19 2005. As a BPA, I conducted criminal investigations focusing on the entry without  
20 inspection and illegal re-entry of undocumented aliens as well as human smuggling of  
21 undocumented aliens across the United States border with Mexico.

22 3. The facts set forth in this Affidavit are based on my own personal  
23 knowledge; knowledge obtained from other individuals during my participation in this  
24 investigation, including other law enforcement personnel; review of documents and  
25 records related to this investigation; communications with others who have personal  
26 knowledge of the events and circumstances described herein; and information gained  
27 through my training and experience. This Affidavit is intended to merely show there is

1 sufficient probable cause for the above charge and does not set forth all my knowledge  
2 about this matter.

3 4. As further detailed below, based on my investigation and the investigation  
4 of other law enforcement officers, I submit there is probable cause to believe that  
5 Cristobal MORALES-ORTIZ, who was previously removed from the United States, was  
6 found in the United States after knowingly and voluntarily reentering the United States  
7 without prior authorization to do so.

### 8 **SUMMARY OF PROBABLE CAUSE**

9 5. United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) maintains an  
10 alien registration administration file, commonly referred to as an “A-file,” A208-569-  
11 035, on Cristobal MORALES-ORTIZ (hereinafter “MORALES-ORTIZ”). This file is the  
12 official immigration file maintained by USCIS and is a consolidated repository of all  
13 known immigration contacts with MORALES-ORTIZ. It contains documents pertaining  
14 to his identity and alienage and shows that he is a native and citizen of Mexico.

15 6. MORALES-ORTIZ’s A-file contains official immigration records of the  
16 Department of Homeland Security, as well as records relating to MORALES-ORTIZ’s  
17 criminal history. These records reflect the following:

- 18 a. On January 11, 2016, a DHS official issued MORALES-ORTIZ an  
19 Expedited Removal Order. Pursuant to this order, MORALES-  
20 ORTIZ was physically removed from the United States to Mexico  
21 on January 12, 2016, by walking through the port of entry in  
22 Calexico, California.
- 23 b. On January 26, 2016, DHS determined MORALES-ORTIZ was  
24 subject to removal from the United States through reinstatement of  
25 his prior January 11, 2016 removal order.
- 26 c. On January 28, 2016, in the U.S. District Court, District of Arizona,  
27 MORALES-ORTIZ pleaded guilty to one count of Illegal Entry, in

1 violation of Title 8, USC § 1325(a)(1), and was sentenced to 60 days  
2 imprisonment (Case No. 16-CR-20710M).

3 d. On March 26, 2016, MORALES-ORTIZ was again physically  
4 removed from the United States to Mexico, walking through the port  
5 of entry in Nogales, Arizona.

6 7. The above removal records bear the fingerprint, photograph, and signature  
7 of MORALES-ORTIZ as physical proof of his removal from the United States to  
8 Mexico.

9 8. On February 26, 2025, Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) Blaine,  
10 Washington served a Notice of Inspection (NOI) and administrative subpoena to the  
11 owner of Mt. Baker Roofing at 928 Thomas Rd, Bellingham, WA 98226. The NOI and  
12 subpoena requested Employment Eligibility Verification forms (I-9s) and identification  
13 documents for each employee.

14 9. On March 4, 2025, HSI received I-9s and identification documents for the  
15 employees at of Mt. Baker Roofing. Among those I-9 forms, HSI agents located a I-9  
16 with MORALES-ORTIZ's name and known date of birth. Accompanying the I-9 was  
17 photocopy of Permanent Resident Alien card ("LPR card") that displayed MORALES-  
18 ORTIZ's biographical information and A-number A208-569-035, which is not an A-  
19 number assigned to MORALES-ORTIZ.

20 10. HSI agents conducted DHS systems and databases checks that showed that  
21 MORALES-ORTIZ was not, and had never been, a legal permanent resident, and that he  
22 had been previously removed from the United States.

23 11. On April 2, 2025, HSI, Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO)  
24 officers, United States Border Patrol (USBP) agents, and Customs and Border Protection  
25 (CBP) officers executed a federal search warrant at Mt. Baker Roofing in Bellingham,  
26 Washington. During the warrant execution, agents questioned MORALES-ORTIZ and he  
27 admitted to being a citizen of Mexico with no legal documentation to remain in the

1 United States. MORALES-ORTIZ was then placed under arrest for civil administrative  
2 immigration violations and transported to ERO's office in Tukwila, Washington for  
3 further interviewing and processing.

4 12. At ERO Tukwila, agents took MORALES-ORTIZ's biographical  
5 information including his photograph, fingerprints, name, and date of birth. ERO officers  
6 submitted this information through the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)  
7 computer systems. The systems checks indicated an automatic biometric fingerprint  
8 match to MORALES-ORTIZ, assigned A-file A208-569-035. These systems also showed  
9 that A-file A208-569-053 contained evidence of MORALES-ORTIZ's immigration  
10 history into the United States, mentioned above.

11 13. Agents have conducted a complete and thorough review of MORALES-  
12 ORTIZ's A-file A208-569-035. MORALES-ORTIZ's A-file contains no evidence that  
13 Defendant has ever applied for or received permission from the Attorney General or the  
14 Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security to reenter the United States after  
15 being removed.

16 14. Based on the foregoing, I have probable cause to believe that Defendant  
17 was found in the United States, after knowingly and voluntarily reentering the United  
18 States without the express consent of the Attorney General and the Secretary of the  
19 Department of Homeland Security, in violation of Title 8, United States Code, Section  
20 1326(a).

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**CONCLUSION**

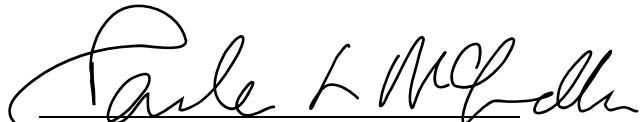
15. Based on the above facts, I respectfully submit that there is probable cause to believe that Cristobal MORALES-ORTIZ has committed the aforementioned offense.



Jordan Dolan, Complainant  
Special Agent, Homeland Security  
Investigations

The above-named agent provided a sworn statement attesting to the truth of the foregoing Complaint and Affidavit. Based on the Complaint and Affidavit, the Court hereby finds there is probable cause to believe the Defendant committed the offense set forth in the Complaint.

DATED this 10<sup>th</sup> day of April 2025



HON. PAULA L. McCANDLIS  
United States Magistrate Judge